# Environmental Justice Comments on Tentative Tulare Lake Basin WDR

Community Water Center,

Clean Water Action, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, AGUA

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# This Permit does not meet Basic Legal Requirements

- Key Problem is that it does not have adequate monitoring and reporting requirements to effectively **ID violations** and take **Enforcement Actions**
- Need to have a baseline and feedback mechanisms from all growers that can indicate:
  - Where growers are causing or contributing to exceedences as well as degradation (violations of the permit) and
  - Where growers are failing to implement BPTC when degradation is occurring.

# This Board Cannot Allow Further Significant Delay

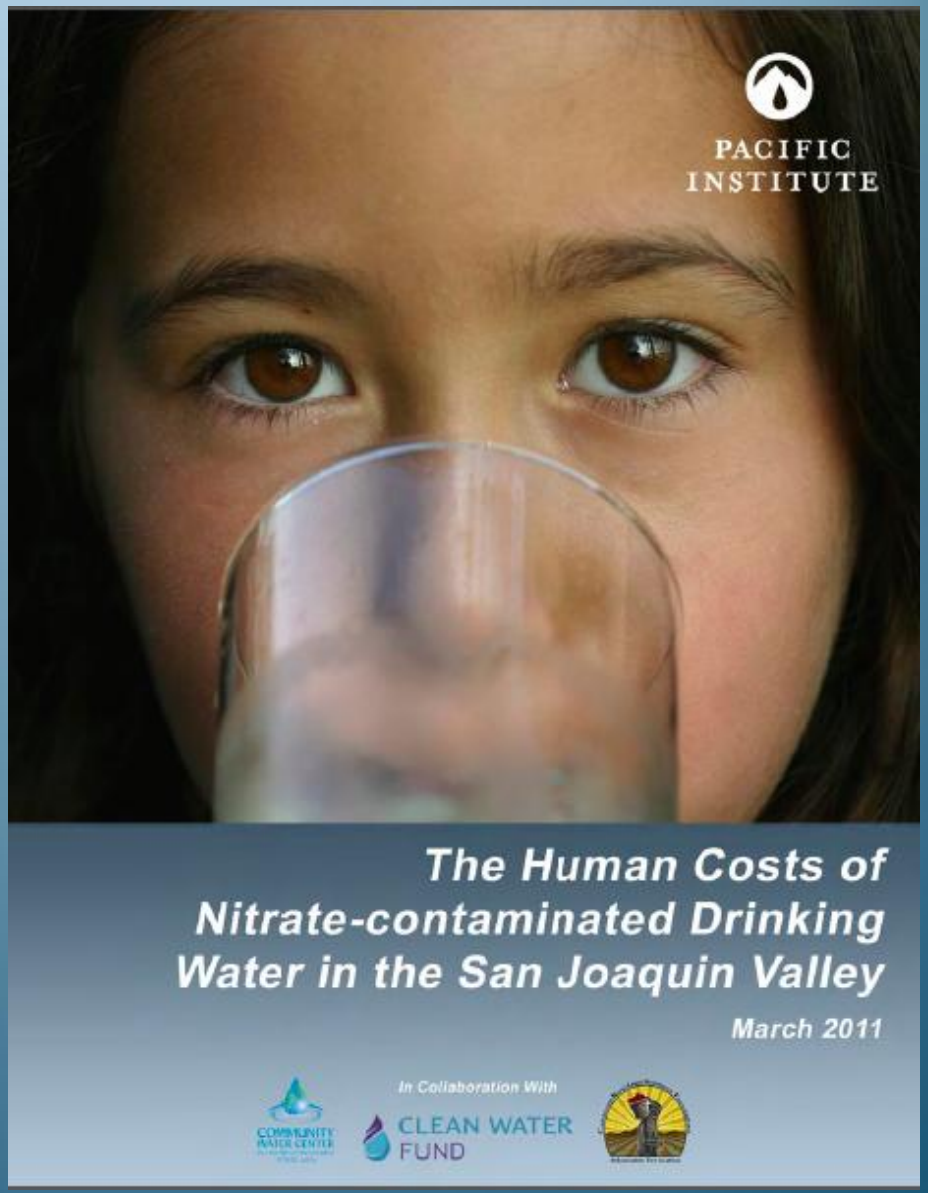
- Current Program is in direct violation of the law because it does not protect groundwater.
- If passage of this WDR is delayed because of CEQA, Board should at a minimum require all growers to submit a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD).
  - Board Could allow options of Coalitions to submit a compilation that could take the form of a cooperative GAR/ Farm evaluation type analysis.

# If allow degradation, need to perform anti-deg analysis and weigh costs

- Currently no effort to estimate costs to communities, instead pretends there will not be any.
- There is information through UC Davis Nitrate report and other sources to inform estimates.
- Should balance against grower costs of higher degradation protections, not of costs of implementing basic regulatory program.

# The Human Costs of Nitrate-contaminated Drinking Water

- Communities in the Tulare Basin are incredibly vulnerable. For example: Beverly Grand with a household income of $1,343 per month;
- Inequities lead to a steep cost that includes poor health outcomes;
- A basic need and a human right



# Summary of Nitrate Management Options

Addressing Nitrate Contamination in California Drinking Water: Technical Report 6 – Treatment of Nitrate in Drinking Water

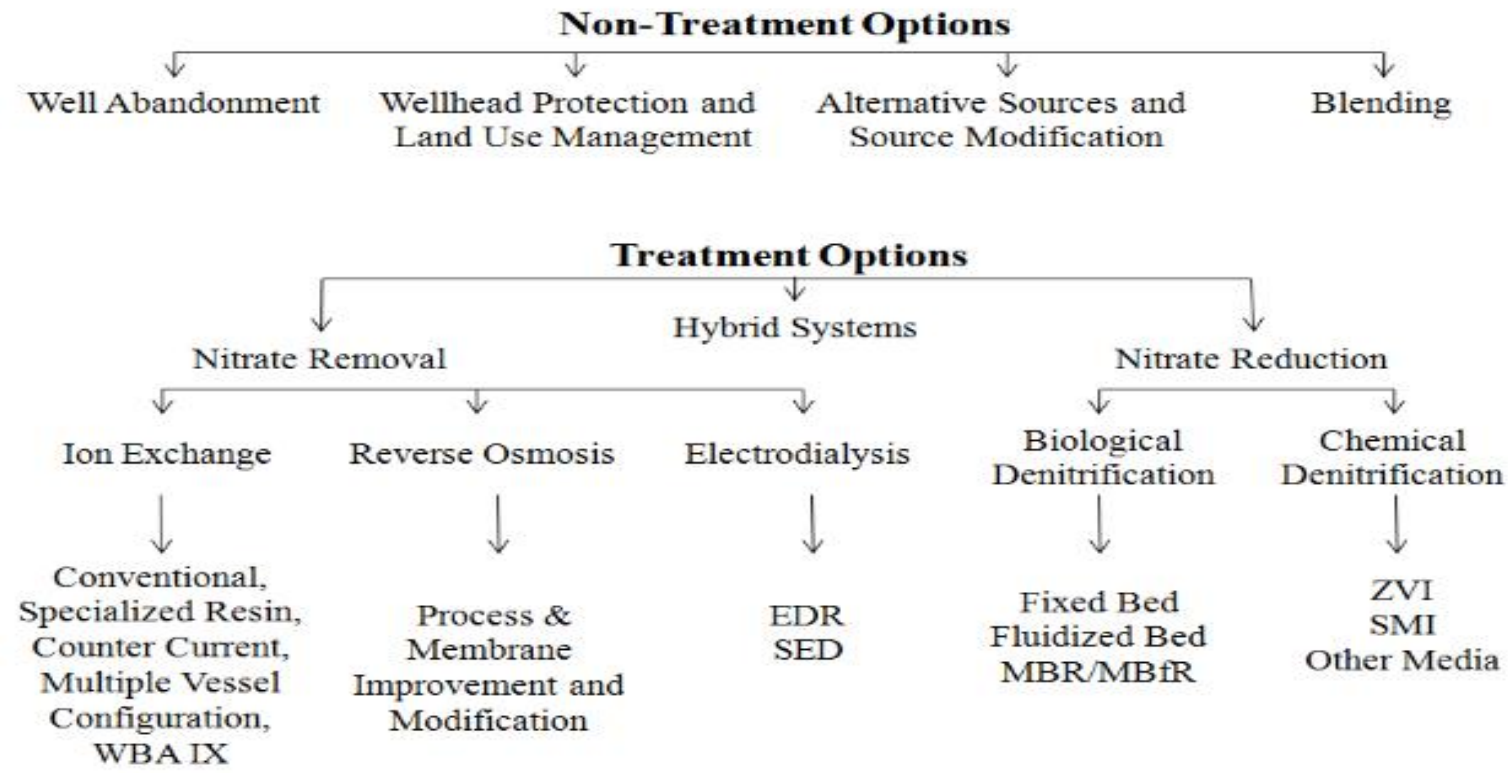



Figure S.1. Summary of nitrate management options.[4]

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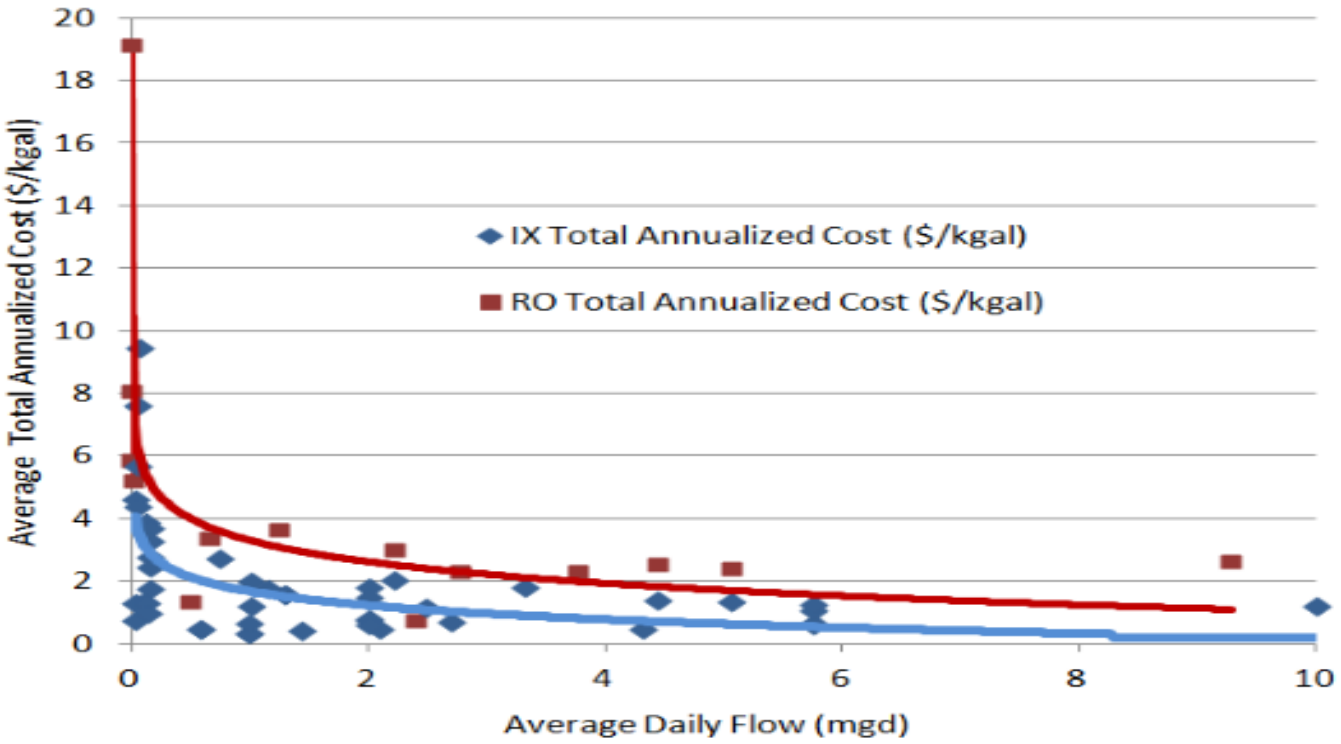
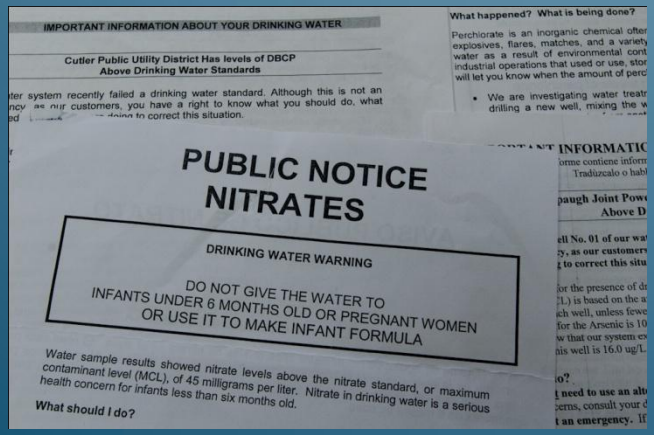



**Figure 35. Cost curve of IX (blue) and RO (red) for nitrate removal.**

Table 24 includes all of the most reliable treatment cost information collected for comparison of cost ranges across system size categories for IX and RO.

# IMPACTED COMMUNITIES IN THE TULARE LAKE BASIN



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Cutler Public Utility District Has levels of DBCP Above Drinking Water Standards

...ter system recently failed a drinking water standard. Although this is not an ...ncy ... our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what ...ed ... doing to correct this situation.

What happened? What is being done?

Perchlorate is an inorganic chemical ofter... explosives, flares, matches, and a variety... water as a result of environmental cont... industrial operations that used or use, stor... will let you know when the amount of perc...

- We are investigating water treatr... drilling a new well, mixing the w...

PUBLIC NOTICE
NITRATES

DRINKING WATER WARNING

DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO
INFANTS UNDER 6 MONTHS OLD OR PREGNANT WOMEN
OR USE IT TO MAKE INFANT FORMULA

Water sample results showed nitrate levels above the nitrate standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 45 milligrams per liter. Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants less than six months old.

What should I do?

# MONSON, CA


MONSON MARKET
COLD BEER WINE ICE GROCERY FOUNTAIN DRINKS COLD DRINKS
HOT FOOD POOL ROOM
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK


Tooleville